

## U.H. Layton

William J. Smallwood

Bridgeport District

Growth of Bridgeport

Present Day Bridgeport

Religious Life In Bridgeport

Grace Methodist Church

Fairfield and Clinton Ave.

Interview with Rev. U. H. Layton

Asked about the religious beliefs of the church and Rev. Layton answer was as follows: Grace Methodist Episcopal Church originated from the church of England, it follows the article beliefs of this church, the original church was derived from the church of Rome. There is [communal?]. The church is Fundermantal from the ancient form of the Christian. Church. It is orthodox.

There is a poor class of people attending this church, the majority of them are working class, a few are on relief.

The seating capacity of the church is 200. The membership is 150. The average Sunday attendance is 75.

There are no colored people attending this church although there is no objection to them.

## Library of Congress

The nationality is 90 per cent American born. The church is a split from the first Methodist church /

I asked about mix mixed marriage. Rev Layton said there were a few, most of them being Irish Catholic with Protestants, they managed to get along all right.

Societies:

Epworth League.. named after town in England.. it is a young peoples group.

Ladies Aid Society.. meets twice a month. there activities are social and also to raise money for the support of the church.

Men's Bible Clas.. this group besides there religious classes take part in social affairs, such as bowling etc.

2

An interesting point about Rev Layton is that he not only runs his church but has taken over the running of a rooming house. He has done this because the income form the church was not enough. The rooming house is in a residential part of the city on the corner of Beechwood Ave. and Clinton Ave. The house at one time was very much run down but he has taken it over a remodeled very beautifully. He tries to cater to a better class of people, that is as he says an older type of people, ones who have seen their hayday.

He has had a little trouble in trying to keep this place on a clean moral plan and has been forced to ask people to leave on short notice because of unwelcome guests. He claims they had plenty of money to pay their way but he was not going to run an immoral rooming house.

At present he has few roomers.